UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2721
(LES/78/004)
11 January 1980

ENGLISH ONLY

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

Assistance for Strengthening the Government Planning Machinery
(LES/78/004)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	May 1979
Starting date of project activities:	May 1979
Planned completion date:	June 1982
To be executed by:	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Finance (Central Planning Office)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$1 123 500
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries

I. Background

1. Since 1971, with the launching of the first five-year development plan, the Government of Lesotho has progressively installed a national planning system, of which the centre-piece is the Central Planning Development Office (CPDO) in the Ministry of Finance. In this process the Government has received assistance from various bilateral and multilateral sources, including UNDP and the World Bank - in the latter case since 1974.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. The second National Development Plan (1975/76 - 1979/80) reflects the continuing commitment to achieving development goals through systematically planned and co-ordinated activities. For example, it aims at restoring the viability of the agricultural sector; improving infrastructure, particularly roads and communications between the mountain regions and more economically developed lowlands; accelerating domestic employment; reforming the educational system to meet the country's development needs; and generally reducing the country's economic dependence on the Republic of South Africa. The emphasis of the Plan is well directed to the country's main development problems and its investment pattern, giving priority to agriculture and infrastructure. It thus reflects the basic needs of an economy still at a very early stage of its development. For the preparation of the Third National Development Plan to be launched in 1980, the Government has requested further external assistance to deal with the existing shortcomings by strengthening the institution and the staff of CPDO, whose primary responsibility is for development planning and for the mobilization, co-ordination and utilization of external resources.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The chief immediate objectives of the project are to assist the Government in elaborating a strategy for dependency reduction and to prepare a perspective plan for up to the year 2000. To this end the national and international staff working together in task forces with specific responsibilities will: (a) advise on and assist in the formulation of national economic objectives, strategies, policies and programmes; (b) devise an employment strategy with emphasis on the establishment of national goals for manpower and training; (c) develop guidelines and procedures for assisting the ministries in formulating internally consistent sectoral programmes and projects in accordance with over-all Plan objectives; (d) advise on the appropriate planning machinery and procedures necessary for the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes, and help to design appropriate methodology for evaluating results; and (e) advise on and assist in the training of national officials in systematic plan and programme preparation and implementation.

III. Inputs

4. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency; for: the services of two economic advisers specialized in perspective planning and medium-term planning respectively, one sector planner, one manpower adviser, one monitoring adviser and consultants; fellowships in development planning and project preparation; and office equipment. In addition, a Funds-in-Trust contribution from the Swedish International Development Authority of $250 000 will cover the cost of the construction of five housing units to accommodate the international experts.

5. The Government will provide qualified professional and supporting staff, office space, supplies and equipment directly to the project.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	945 000
Training	124 500
Equipment	45 000
Miscellaneous	9 000
	1 123 500

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7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $215,300 in kind.

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